said network sending at least a third transaction message to said first workstation and at least a fourth transaction message to said second workstation, said at least third transaction message and said at least fourth transaction message indicating acknowledgement of said acknowledgement from said second workstation. --.

REMARKS

This amendment is supplemental to the amendment submitted October 6, 1999.

Applicants expressly thank the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor for the interview conducted on November 4, 1999. During the interview, the claims were discussed in view of the Wagner and Benton patents. It is believed that the claims as discussed during the interview are patentable over the combination. The possibility of a § 112, second paragraph, problem with the claims regarding the alternative language of "bid or offer" and "offer or bid" was discussed.

In light of the Examiner's concerns regarding a possible § 112, second paragraph, issue, Applicants amend the claims to remove the alternative recitations or bids and offers. New claims 68 through 92 reflect the complementary language removed from claims 43-67. Finally, the claims have been amended to correct antecedent basis concerns.

During the interview, it was also discussed how to represent transaction-related communications in the above claims. Applicants have added the phrase "transaction message" to at least relate to the signals received at and transmitted from the workstations. Support for this recitation may be found at least with respect to the following section:

> " Referring now to the drawings in detail, and initially to FIGS. 1 and 8, the improved matching system of the present invention is shown in diagrammatic form. ... In the message diagram of FIG. 1,

various messages are shown as being transmitted between stations in a typical transaction, with the other stations in the network having been omitted for purposes of clarity. Each station can be considered to have a signal terminal S and a message terminal T for each message. For a transmitted message, the operator of the station conventionally causes a signal to be applied to the signal terminal and this causes the message to be conventionally transmitted from T. For a received message, the message is conventionally applied to T and this causes a command signal to be conventionally generated at a separate terminals and message lines are shown for each message, but in practice a single communication channel between the host and a client or keystation will suffice, and separate terminals for each message may not be necessary since the station will, in practice, conventionally receive a message and detect which type of message it is and generate appropriate command signals and apply them to appropriate devices at that station. For ease of understanding, it is convenient to illustrate the system with a plurality of message lines and terminals, even though they may not be separately present in practice."

See page 12, line 2, through page 12, line 5. No new matter has been entered.

Applicants believe the claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned to further prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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